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DECEMBER'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED TO 3 PERCENT

A continuing slowdown in construction, a soft holiday shopping season and layoffs in manufacturing pushed Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate up three-tenths of a percentage point to 3 percent in December.

Nationally, unemployment increased by three-tenths to 5 percent, the 75th month it has been higher than the Idaho rate.

December's increase was the largest November-to-December increase since 1978 when the current rate calculation system began and the third straight month the rate has risen since the fall of 1982 when the rate peaked at 9.4 percent. Even so, Idaho's rate was the second lowest in the nation in December, just a fraction behind South Dakota's after five straight months of posting the lowest rate in the nation.

The total number of people working in Idaho in December decreased by 5,100 to 738,100 while the number of unemployed jumped 2,200 to 23,000. It was the third consecutive month of falling employment and rising unemployment. For the fourth quarter 13,800 fewer people were working and 5,100 more people were looking for work.

Idaho's rate remained substantially below what many economists consider full employment and two full percentage points below the national jobless rate. But the trend over the final quarter of 2007 showed a definite slowdown in the Idaho economy with the unemployment rate expected to hover at 3 percent or continue rising during the early part of 2008.

The year ended as it began with 3 percent unemployment, but 10 straight months of lower rates in between, including record lows of 2.3 percent, resulted in an average unemployment rate for 2007 of a record 2.6 percent. Unemployment has been below 4 percent in Idaho for 29 straight months.

Last year total employment averaged 738,900, a record high for a record labor force of nearly 759,000. About 15,300 more people were working in 2007 than the year before, and unemployment averaged 19,900, the lowest since 1978.

Year over year, 7,000 more people were on the job in December. That 1 percent increase was the smallest 12-month increase since August 2003 when the state was still recovering from the 2001 national recession. The number of unemployed workers was down only 1,300 from December 2006, or 5.3 percent, the smallest year-over-year decrease since July 2003.

The preliminary annual average unemployment rate for 2007 was a record low 2.6 percent, down eight-tenths of a percentage point from 2006's annual average rate. This was the fifth consecutive decrease since the rate took an upward turn in 2002. The unemployment rate in 2002 was 5.4 percent up from 4.9 percent a year earlier. The layoffs in the high-tech industry as well as the recession triggered the increase. Although the economy continued strong

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Idaho Table 1: Average Annual Labor Force Data for the State of Idaho

	Annual Average					2006-07 % Chg
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Civilian Labor Force	689,090	703,851	727,463	749,244	758,789	1.3
Unemployment	36,397	33,105	28,997	25,623	19,920	-22.3
% Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	4.7	4.0	3.4	2.6	
Employment	652,693	670,746	698,466	723,621	738,869	2.1

during most of 2007, fourth quarter growth slowed significantly. Idaho's annual average civilian labor force increased from 2006 by 9,545 persons to 758,789 while employment jumped 15,248 to nearly 739,000. The most dramatic change was in the unemployed, which plunged 22.3 percent or 5,703 individuals to under 20,000. It was the largest decrease since 1988.

Despite the increase in the unemployment rate, Idaho's economy remained one of the strongest in the nation. The state and South Dakota posted the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Idaho previously had posted the lowest rate in the nation in May, July, August, September, October and November.

The nation's preliminary 2007 average unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, unchanged from 2006. It continued to be the lowest rate since 2000's 4 percent.

AREA AND COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

The state table on page 21 provides the month's labor force statistics for Idaho counties, designated labor market areas and selected cities for December 2007 and 2006.

Clearwater County reported the only double digit unemployment rate in December at 10.1 percent. Two other rural counties reported unemployment rates at or above 8 percent — Adams at 9 percent and Benewah at 8 percent. A year ago, four rural counties posted jobless rates of 7 percent or more with none experiencing a double digit rate. Boundary County had the highest rate one year ago at 8.3 percent.

The lowest county unemployment rate in December was 1.4 percent in Owyhee County. Oneida came in at 1.9 percent, Madison at 1.8 percent and Franklin at 1.6 percent. There were 16 additional counties with rates at 3 percent or less. A year ago, 18 were at or below 3 percent.

Among the 10 designated market areas, the Grangeville Small Labor Market Area had the highest December unemployment rate at 6 percent. The lowest was reported in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Hailey Small Labor Market Area at 2.1 percent.

COUNTY AND AREA LABOR FORCE: 2007 SUMMARY

An additional state table on pages 22-23 provides the 2007 annual average labor force statistics for Idaho counties, designated labor market areas and selected cities.

The 2007 annual average unemployment rates in Idaho counties and labor market areas ranged from a high of 6.7 percent in Clearwater County to a low of 1.5 percent in Teton County. This large

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spread is another telling sign that Idaho's economic structure is not homogeneous and that, in fact, much of the economic influences on Idahoans are local or regional. The persistence of high and low average unemployment rates in individual counties is a pattern that has lasted throughout recent years. The mix of overall economic conditions in the regions and counties has not changed dramatically in the last five years.

Clearwater County's high rate was followed by four counties — Boundary at 5.4 percent, Benewah at 5.2 percent, Adams at 5.1 and Shoshone County at 5 percent — at the high end of the scale.

These mountainous, sparsely populated counties have relied on wood products, ranching and government as the sources of most of the jobs. Job losses in the wood products industries has led to a general downturn that is likely to continue until replacement industries are found. Shoshone County has been the center of Idaho's gold, silver and lead mining industry for generations. After a decline of activity in this industry, 2007 saw a resurgence that should continue strongly into 2008.

Twenty-nine of Idaho's counties registered annual average unemployment rates at or below 3 percent for 2007. Teton County in eastern Idaho had the lowest rate of all counties at 1.5 percent. There were eight other counties that reported annual average rates at or below 2 percent.

Idaho has 10 designated labor market areas including five metropolitan statistical areas. Except for Coeur d'Alene, these are multi-county areas determined by commuting patterns and labor market similarity. The Grangeville Small Labor Market Area had the highest annual average unemployment rate at 4.1 percent. It was followed by the Lewiston metro area at 3.5 percent and the Burley Micropolitan Statistical Area at 3.1 percent.

The Boise/Nampa metro area has nearly 40 percent of the state labor force. Its 2007 annual average unemployment rate was 2.4 percent, just below the state's average of 2.6 percent.

The other small labor market area, Hailey, had the lowest annual average unemployment rate at 1.9 percent. This is the third year that Hailey has had the lowest unemployment rate.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

The state table on page 25 provides state industry employment data for the current month, previous month and one year ago.

Nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 4,000 in December from November to 660,500. The loss was the largest since 1991 but follows the trend. In 13 of the last 17 years, the number of nonfarm jobs has declined in December. The significant slowdown in construction was reflected in the loss of 2,600 jobs in the goods-producing industries, a 2.1 percent decline. That is three and a half

times the job loss overall of just 0.6 percent. But compared to December 2006, production sector jobs were off 3,800 while the overall nonfarm payroll was up 12,600.

Half of the job loss in December occurred in construction, which shed 2,000 jobs from November as residential housing continued its dramatic slowdown. Road repair and maintenance projects were winding down as weather conditions worsened. Commercial construction also slowed but not to the extent of residential.



Construction lost 2,000 jobs from November to December as residential housing continued a dramatic slowdown. Photo courtesy of Energy Star, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

An additional 1,000 jobs were lost in administrative and support services, primarily in services to buildings and dwellings. This, too, is not unusual as the winter weather cutbacks the demand for landscaping services. Also the soft retail market reduced the demand for seasonal workers.

The loss of 500 jobs at the public colleges and universities reflected a reduction in the number of student workers as the semester ended. These jobs will begin again in February as the spring semester gets under way.

Only modest job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality. Both accommodations and food service added jobs during the month. Nearly 300 were in lodging as resort areas geared up for skiing and other winter recreation. The full-service restaurants added additional staff to meet seasonal demands of the holidays.

Retail activity was mixed as merchants were cautious upon entering the holiday shopping season and many apparently did not hire additional staff. Overall, the number of jobs declined in December by 300, all in the building supply sector. Gains and losses in other retail components offset each other.

December 2007 compared to December 2006 saw the:

- Loss of 1,500 jobs in the computer and electronic products manufacturing, primarily due to the layoffs at Micron Technology in Boise.
- Loss of 1,200 in construction as residential building ground to a halt.
- Addition of 3,100 jobs in retail trade with the expansion of national chain general merchandise stores across the state, especially in southwestern Idaho.
- Addition of 2,900 jobs in administrative and support services, accommodating growth in employment services and services to building and dwellings.
- Addition of 2,900 jobs in local government as population growth fueled demand for more schools.
- Addition of 2,600 jobs in health care and social services driven by 2,200 more jobs in hospitals.
- Addition of 2,200 jobs at hotels and restaurants and another 400 in recreation to meet rising demand in tourism and business travel.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS IN 2007

On average in 2007, nonfarm payroll jobs were up over 17,000 from 2006. However, the growth rate slowed to 2.7 percent from the 4.4 percent growth between 2005 and 2006. The March issue of Idaho Employment will have a feature article on the details of the nonfarm job changes in 2007, relying on benchmarked figures being released in the coming weeks.

Idaho Table 2 provides a glimpse of the changes in the number of jobs over the past five years. The revised data to be released in March will not change that information substantially.

For state data, see the tables starting on page 21.

Idaho Table 2: Annual Average Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	572,253	588,067	611,704	638,896	656,081
Numeric Change	4,050	15,814	23,637	27,192	17,185
Percent Change	0.7	2.8	4.0	4.4	2.7

* Preliminary

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Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percent to 3.5 percent in December as harsh winter weather reduced employment in construction, the lumber industry continued to downsize and less-than-optimistic retailers curbed holiday hiring. Despite the month-to-month uptick, the rate remained below the 3.8 percent in December 2006.

Except for Benewah County, the rest of the Panhandle also had lower unemployment rates in December than the year before. See PR Table 1 for details. Benewah County's unemployment rate ballooned to 8 percent in December as temporary layoffs hit logging and the forest products industry.

PR Table 1: Unemployment Rates—Panhandle Counties

County	Dec. 2007	Nov. 2007	Dec. 2006
Benewah	8.0%	5.7%	6.8%
Bonner	3.7%	3.3%	4.6%
Boundary	6.8%	6.1%	8.3%
Shoshone	6.0%	5.2%	7.3%

With more and more economists believing the United States has already entered a recession or soon will, unemployment rates are not likely to remain at the historically low levels the Panhandle has been experiencing. However, it is unlikely that the Panhandle will suffer as much from an economic slowdown as the rest of the nation because:

- **The Panhandle already is experiencing the worst that recession usually brings.** When the U.S. enters a recession, the biggest blow to the Panhandle economy normally comes with a fall in U.S. housing starts that curtails logging and mill employment. But the forest products industry already has endured 18 months of low demand so it is not likely to experience significantly more job losses.
- **Other manufacturers may generate enough jobs to offset most of the wood products job losses.** The Panhandle's manufacturing industry has been bucking the downward trend of U.S. manufacturing for several years. While U.S. manufacturing employment fell 19 percent between the third quarters of 2001 and 2007, Panhandle manufacturing employment grew 22 percent in the same period. Several manufacturers in the Panhandle expect to add jobs during the next year. They include Berg Integrated Systems in Plummer, Ground Force Manufacturing in Post Falls, Unicep Packaging and Quest Aircraft in Sandpoint and Biopol, which will move from Spokane to Post Falls early next year. The current low value of the dollar is making it easier for local manufacturers to sell their products abroad. However, those who sell mostly in the United States may see their customers cutting back during a recession.
- **Tourism is likely to keep adding jobs.** Momentum, the addition of new attractions and a declining dollar should bring even more tourists to the Panhandle in 2008 and 2009. This summer Silverwood Theme Park will open a roller coaster nearly twice as high as its other roller coasters. The casinos operated by the Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai tribes remain popular. Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint and Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg have received considerable national attention during the last couple of years. This spring, Silver Mountain will open an indoor water park and begin building an 18-hole golf course near its gondola base. The Trail of the Hiawatha, the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and the International Selkirk Loop also have received national attention. The low value of the dollar is luring a record number of Canadians into the Panhandle to shop and play and should attract much larger groups of Europeans and other international travelers this summer than usual.
- **High prices for wheat and other agricultural products will benefit local farmers, which should boost their spending, especially in Boundary and Benewah counties.**
- **The mining industry will add jobs.** Shoshone County is expected to continue adding jobs in the mining industry as silver prices remain high. The

average wage of a Shoshone County miner in 2006 was \$57,000 so an increase in mining activity has a large impact on incomes and spending.

- **Continued population growth will boost retail and services.** Retirees probably will continue to move into the Panhandle in record numbers. Sometimes, a recession actually increases the flow of retirees, since many people may decide to take early retirement offers made by firms during recessions.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

WHO ARE THE SHAKERS AND MOVERS?

Who are the largest employers in the Panhandle? What kind of industries are they in? Answers can be found in the five tables within this article showing the largest employers based on average monthly employment in each county.

Benewah County's 12 Largest Employers

Employer	Industrial Description	Emp. Range
Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe *	Tribal government	500-599
Potlatch Corporation	Manufacturer, wood products	300-399
Jack A. Buell Trucking	Trucking firm	150-199
St. Maries Joint School District	Public schools	150-199
Valley Vista Care	Nursing home	150-199
Benewah Community Hospital	Hospital	100-149
Plummer-Worley School District	Public schools	100-149
Regulus Stud Mill	Manufacturer, wood products	100-149
Archies IGA	Grocery store	50-99
Benewah County Government	County government	50-99
Federal Government	Federal government	50-99
Stimson Lumber	Manufacturer, wood products	50-99

* Including headquarters, retail operations, the Berg Integrated Systems manufacturing plant, farm, school and Benewah Medical & Wellness Center in Plummer. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe also has 900-plus employees in Worley, in Kootenai County.

BONNER COUNTY

- Coldwater Creek, the Sandpoint-based national retailer, announced in January that it was eliminating 65 jobs nationwide, including 51 at its corporate headquarters and six at its customer service center in Coeur d'Alene.
- Coldwater has experienced a precipitate drop in revenues as American consumers have retrenched in recent months. Coldwater, which sells apparel through

catalogs and the Internet, also owns 336 women's clothing stores nationwide and expects to open another 50 this year. In addition to the layoffs, which will save \$6 million, Coldwater plans to cut costs by advertising more selectively and reducing inventory by offering fewer sizes and colors. Before the layoff, Coldwater Creek employed about 600 people in the Sandpoint area, 350 in Coeur d'Alene and 10,000 nationwide.

- With U.S. housing starts near record low levels, lumber prices remain very low and have been taking a toll for a year and a half, causing layoffs and intermittent shutdowns at many mills. In January, Stimson Lumber permanently laid off another 22 people in Priest River after cutting the payroll from 115 to 70 in late 2005. Stimson saw no sign of improvement in the lumber market. Riley Creek Lumber Co. in Laclede also laid off workers temporarily in January while waiting for the market to improve.

Bonner County's 20 Largest Employers

Employer	Industrial Description	Emp. Range
Lake Pend Oreille School District #8	Public schools	600-699
Coldwater Creek	National retailer	500-599
Bonner County Government	County government	300-399
Bonner General Hospital	Hospital	300-399
Litehouse	Manufacturer, salad dressings	300-399
Wal-Mart	Retail, general	300-399
Federal Government	Including Forest Service	200-299
J D Lumber Co.	Lumber & wood products	200-299
Schweitzer Mountain Resort	Ski area & recreation	200-299
West Bonner County School District	Public schools	200-299
Life Care Center of Sandpoint	Nursing home	150-199
Quest Aircraft	Manufacturer, airplanes	100-149
Riley Creek Lumber Co.	Lumber & wood products	150-199
City of Sandpoint	City government	100-149
Encoder Products	Manufacturer, electronics	100-149
Home Depot	Building materials store	100-149
Stimson Lumber	Lumber & wood products	100-149
Thorne Research Inc.	Manufacturer, nutritional supplements	100-149
Unicep Packaging	Manufacturer, microdose applicators	100-149
Yoke's Pack 'n Save	Grocery store	100-149

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Silverwood Theme Park keeps getting better and better. This July, it plans to unveil a 191-foot \$4 million steel roller coaster almost twice as high as its next highest, Tremors. Silverwood has more than 65 rides and attractions.
- The Idaho Small Business Development Center at North Idaho College's Workforce Training Center in Post Falls helps small businesses throughout the Panhandle with no-cost business coaching and low-cost business training. The center helped Bullet Tools in Hayden create its first business plan and obtain initial financing in 1998. The company, which makes tools for the flooring industry, ran into problems in 2006, but the center provided business coaching and helped the owners develop a business strategy. In addition, Center Regional Director Bill Jhung suggested that the owners attend a 10-week workshop

Kootenai County's 20 Largest Employers

Employer	Industrial Description	Emp. Range
Kootenai Health	Hospital	1,700-1,799
Coeur d'Alene School District	Public schools	1,300-1,399
Coeur d'Alene Resort	Lodging	1,100-1,199
Center Partners	Customer service centers	900-999
North Idaho College	Community college	900-999
Coeur d'Alene Casino	Amusement & recreation	800-899
Kootenai County Government	County government	700-799
Federal Government	Including Forest Service & postal	600-699
Post Falls School District	Public schools	600-699
Lakeland School District	Public schools	500-599
Wal-Mart	General merchandise store	500-599
Kimball Office	Manufacturer, furniture	400-499
Silverwood	Theme park	400-499
Cabela's	Retail store	300-399
City of Coeur d'Alene	City government	300-399
Coldwater Creek	Mail order catalog call center	300-399
Esterline Advanced Input Systems	Manufacturer, electronics	300-399
U.S. Bank	Bank & national customer service center	300-399
Verizon Northwest	Communications	300-399
Buck Knives	Manufacturer, knives	200-299

on entrepreneurial leadership. After the coaching and workshop, Bullet Tools' owners were able to focus on areas of the business that needed improvement. They subsequently streamlined their operations and reduced inventory. By the end of 2007, Bullet Tools had generated a 30 percent increase in revenue and gained 30 percent excess warehouse capacity, all with 25 percent less staff. The company's goal is to reach \$5 million in sales by 2010.

- Lakeland High School in Rathdrum, in partnership with the Coeur d'Alene Resort, is running The Resort Academy, a two-year course for high school students interested in careers in the hospitality industry. Each week, students get three days of classroom instruction at both the school and the resort and then spend the other two days rotating among the resort's departments including food preparation, banquet services, front desk, reservations, housekeeping, the spa and laundry. Students who complete the first year will receive three college credits, and those who complete the second year will receive an additional nine credits. The second year will include exposure to advertising, sales, marketing and accounting.
- Pilgrim's Natural Foods is expanding from 8,000 square feet to 19,000 square feet in Coeur d'Alene by taking over the space used by Liquidation World next door. The expansion will boost payroll to more than 50.
- The Rex electronics and appliance store in front of

Coeur d'Alene's Silver Lake Mall closed Jan. 17. According to the store's manager, when the store opened in 1998, Sears was its only competitor, but its competition has grown too quickly. About five people worked there.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- The national spotlight was again on the Silver Valley Jan. 18 when the New York Times ran a travel feature about Kellogg headlined "A Mining Town with a Bleak Past Starts to Blossom." "A wave of outdoor-oriented second-home buyers is making over the once woebe-gone Silver Valley, which straddles Idaho's Panhandle. Kellogg is reinventing itself as buildings are being renovated and condos and lofts built." It describes the Silver Mountain ski areas and gondola, the county's snowmobiling trails and the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. It adds, "The average price of homes sold in the Silver Valley has nearly tripled in the last five years from \$55,836 to \$152,054."
- Silver Mountain Resort hired 24 South Americans through a special work and travel program. The 12 Brazilians and 12 Peruvians arrived in Kellogg in early December, when the southern hemisphere's summer break began. Until mid-March, the students will work as housekeepers at the Morning Star Lodge, bartenders at Noah's Canteen and clerks at Moguls snack bar and the new video game arcade. The work and travel program helps foreign students experience North American culture and improve their English while working. This is the first time Silver Mountain

Shoshone County's 12 Largest Employers

Employer	Industrial Description	Emp. Range
Dave Smith Motors	Automobile dealership	300-399
Kellogg Joint School District	Public schools	200-299
Galena Mine (U.S. Silver Corp.)	Silver mine	150-199
Lucky Friday Mine (Hecla Mining)	Silver mine	150-199
Shoshone County Government	County government	150-199
Federal Government	Including Forest Service	100-199
Shoshone Medical Center	Hospital	100-149
Silver Mountain (Eaglecrest)	Ski resort & recreation	100-149
Sunshine Mine (Sterling Mining)	Silver mine	100-149
Wallace School District	Public schools	100-149
Wal-Mart	Retail store	100-149
Magnuson Hospitality	Lodging	50-99

Boundary County's 12 Largest Employers

Employer	Industrial Description	Emp. Range
Boundary County School District 101		200-299
Idaho Educational Services - UHS	Social & educational services	200-299
Kootenai River Inn & Casino	Tribal government, lodging & casino	200-299
Boundary Community Hospital	Hospital & nursing home	150-199
Federal Government	Incl. forest service & homeland security	150-199
Boundary County Government	County government	100-149
Elk Mountain Farms	Hops farm	100-149
Boundary Trading Co.	Grocery store	50-99
Clifty View Nursery	Ornamental tree nursery	50-99
Riley Creek Lumber	Manufacturer, wood products	50-99
TrussTek	Manufacturer, wood products	50-99
Welco of Idaho	Manufacturer, wood products	50-99

has used the program. If it works well, a group of students from Thailand will begin work in April.

- The University of Idaho's College of Engineering is exploring the viability of a Center for Industrial Training and Safety in the Silver Valley. A group of Silver Valley residents have formed an organization called Geologics to advocate for the center, which they believe has economic development potential. If established, the center would provide metallurgical certification for assayers, which is currently unavailable in the United States. It would also offer safety training for a variety of high-risk industries including hardrock mining. That program would complement a Mine Health and Safety Administration program on the East Coast for coal miners. The center would train about 25 people at a time for periods of three to 10 weeks, depending on the desired skills. Between sessions, the center could operate a K-12 science camp. The center would be a cooperative venture among the community, industry and university. The community would provide the site, the mining industry would

provide hands-on, on-site experience and mentoring and the university would provide the educators and courses with government grants financing the operation. The university has approved the proposed center and is awaiting legislative approval and authorization of federal grants. The rapidly growing mining industry wants a program to train new miners, who will be needed not only to man the industry's expansion amid strong metal prices but also to replace miners retiring over the next 10 years. Most of today's miners are in their 50s and 60s, and the downturn in silver mining that began in 1981 dissuaded younger workers from entering the industry.

- **See page 27 for Panhandle Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs data table for December 2007.**

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Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce counties

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December increased two-tenths of a point from November to 4 percent, as shown in north central Idaho labor force table on page 28. In December 2006 the rate was 3.9 percent. The increase, a tenth less than the statewide increase, was due to a decrease in seasonal trade and service hiring for the Christmas season. Stores and restaurants took on fewer temporary workers last year, giving permanent workers more hours during the holidays. Nonfarm payroll jobs in December decreased by 170 from November. However, over the year the number of jobs increased with educational services and health care accounting for the majority.

AGRICULTURE PAYS OFF BIG

If farming is a gamble, it paid off big for Idaho in 2007. University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences economists' estimated Idaho agriculture will collect record high cash receipts of \$5.6 billion in 2007.

That total reflects strong markets for beef, dairy, potatoes, wheat and nearly all of the state's other crops. Cash receipts rose 25 percent, or \$1.1 billion, from 2006. The high prices for livestock, milk and crops produced an even happier statistic for the state's agricultural producers — a 78 percent increase in net farm income. That means farm revenues, which rose 21 percent, outstripped even a 10 percent overall increase in expenses. The report also highlighted fundamental changes in Idaho agriculture, noting the seventh straight year that livestock revenues outpaced crop receipts. Livestock accounted for 57 percent of cash receipts in 2007. The state's rapidly growing dairy industry rose to the top, generating receipts of \$2.04 billion, a 59 percent increase from \$1.28 billion in 2006. Sales of beef cattle and calves generated another \$1.07 billion to carry the livestock sector to \$3.22 billion for the year. Potato sales of \$721 million, an all-time high, led crop receipts. Wheat sales totaled \$511 million. Together the two crops accounted for more than half of the crop sector's receipts. According to the report, high prices for fuel, fertilizer and

other supplies will remain a threat in 2008. Government payments were down 23 percent to \$108 million as growers took advantage of high crop prices and exercised their traditional flexibility. The report is available on the Internet at www.ag.uidaho.edu/aers/r_outlooks.htm.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Snowhaven Ski Area near Grangeville is breaking attendance and receipt records. Credited for these increases is the tubing hill, which was installed in 2004, and since has been pulling people from across eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Tubing has really taken off so much that the ski area has ordered additional tubes and hired more people to handle the hill demand. As much as the ski area has benefited, there have been added benefits to the community in spinoff businesses such as lodging, restaurants and retail stores during the slower winter months. Snowhaven has plans to expand and update the lodge on the hill.

LATAH COUNTY

- Moscow's Planning and Zoning Commission approved rezoning and preliminary plats for two large subdivisions in January. The commission approved the Indian Hills Sixth Addition and the Southgate Third Addition. Indian Hills Sixth, located east of the city, includes 69 low- and medium-density single-family residential lots with some mixed-use properties, a small area of general business zoning and a patch of motor business. The Southgate Third Addition, located in east Moscow, includes 63 low- and medium-density residential lots and several for duplexes. The project includes a three-acre park to serve the parkland requirement for the whole Southgate area.
- Hawkins Companies wants Whitman County commissioners to sell \$10.5 million in bonds for public infrastructure for the company's proposed 700,000-square-foot shopping development on the Pullman-Moscow Highway. The Boise-based developer also proposed it partner with the county on building that infrastructure, just west of the Idaho state line. The partnership essentially would amount to Hawkins being responsible for the construction and Whitman County agreeing to purchase it back at a predetermined price. Hawkins' said the county would begin seeing sales and property tax revenues of nearly \$400,000 from the development by the fourth year of a 30-year bond. Revenues would increase to more than \$900,000 by the sixth year when the shopping center would be completed and filled with tenants, and that revenue would remain steady until the bond was repaid. Tax income would be around \$1.8 million a year once the bond was repaid. The project still

hinges on Hawkins signing a lease with Lowe's as an anchor tenant for the shopping center and obtaining water rights, which are being held up by an appeal.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Lewiston and Clarkston have four financial institutions vying for customers and building new branches — an indication of the lengths the financial sector is willing to go to show it plans to be a part of the community long term. Newly completed Bank of Whitman's 10,000-square-foot brick building in Clarkston is not just there for looks. "We're forever," says Terry Otte, vice president and chief operating officer. Bank of Whitman isn't alone in its expansion. Syringa Bank is constructing a 7,000-square-foot branch in the Lewiston Orchards. Its first office opened in Lewiston in 2006. Twin River National Bank is adding its fourth branch less than a block away, converting a mini-mall. Community Bank has acquired land next to Tomato Bros. in Clarkston for its new office, expected to be finished within 18 months. All four seem to be pursuing the same strategy — emphasizing stability and ties to residents of the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley as they pursue lucrative commercial clients. Syringa filled its positions with experienced, local banking professionals, and still customers overwhelmed them with questions about their intentions such as, "Is this bank just a market test?" or "Are you really going to stay?" says Jerry Aldape, president of Syringa Bank in Boise. "By building this branch here we're going to show people we're really committed." Residents of Nez Perce and Asotin counties equate excellent customer service with local banks such as having a person and not a machine answer the telephone, says Jody Servatius, chief executive officer of Twin River National Bank. Servatius says Twin River's market share has stayed steady, not increasing as it has when other local banks were acquired. Twin River Bank was started in 1979 by a group of realtors and is the only bank headquartered in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. Executives of the Bank of Whitman, Sterling, Community Bank and Syringa say they're not trying to grow so that they can then be sold. The coming years will likely be challenging for all banks. The consumer side of banking is extremely competitive with online banks, insurance firms and even payday loan providers expanding in an already crowded field.

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Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Seasonally adjusted unemployment edged up a notch to 2.7 percent from November to December in the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area and remained one-tenth of a point below December 2006. Employment year-over-year was up 7,000, or 2.4 percent, despite the 2,000 decline in people working from November to December as increasingly tepid economic conditions in the region began affecting the labor market.

In December nonfarm jobs fell 1,600 from November in the metro area but were still 8,000 higher than in December 2006 — a 2.9 percent increase that was nearly a point and a half better than the growth statewide. Predictably, construction lost 900 jobs as weather turned bad. Manufacturing also shed 300 jobs as current economic conditions slowed down orders. Partially offsetting those losses was 300 new jobs in health care to accommodate continued population growth.

The December 2007 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in SW Table 1.

CONSUMER SPENDING AND INCOMES

Recession is the word of the hour, and the Federal Reserve's emergency three-quarter point cut in both the federal funds and discount rates to stave off a dramatic stock market decline has underscored the likelihood that the economy is entering a recession. While the reasons for the southwestern Idaho economy slowing vary, it is clear that wages and incomes in general have not kept pace with the increases in the cost of living, and that limits consumer activity.

Gone are the days of Idaho's low cost of living but not the days of low wages and incomes. Consumer spending drives the economy, and discretionary disposable income

is the fuel. If consumers are not buying, manufacturers are not making things and retailers are not selling them.

This illustrates what is happening in the largest of southwestern Idaho's counties. In 1999 Ada County's median household income was \$46,293. By 2006, it had risen 16.4 percent to \$53,868. During the same time period, the Wells Fargo Boise area cost of living index rose 33.6 percent, and the United States' consumer price index increased by 21.2 percent. The state of Idaho does not have a consumer price index and historically uses the national CPI.

According to the Wells Fargo Boise area cost of living index, a basket of goods that cost \$100 in 1999 cost \$133.60 in 2006. At the same time, the value of the \$100 a household had to buy that basket of goods in 1999 had risen only to \$116.40 in 2006, leaving that household short by \$17.20. Disposable income was slashed by that amount. Using the national CPI, the difference between income and costs isn't that large.

The fact is that costs are rising faster than incomes in southwestern Idaho, and until that gap is eliminated or at least narrowed, this correction to the economy is likely to continue.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE/NAMPA MSA

- Enrollment in the Meridian School District, the state's largest, is beginning to stabilize after growing exponentially over the last several years. The district had 32,660 students at the beginning of the school year last fall and that has remained essentially unchanged. The state's second largest district, the Boise School District, has experienced a slight decline in enrollment, according to district officials.

SW Table 1: December 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

	Ada	Adams	Boise	Canyon	Elmore	Gem	Owyhee	Payette	Valley	Washington	Statewide
Civilian Labor Force	203,201	1,921	4,012	86,082	11,056	7,820	5,086	10,090	5,462	4,969	761,047
Number Unemployed	4,729	172	160	3,084	441	286	72	491	275	190	22,971
Percent Unemployed	2.3	9.0	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.7	1.4	4.9	5.0	3.8	3.0
Number Employed	198,472	1,749	3,852	82,998	10,615	7,534	5,014	9,600	5,188	4,779	738,076

- During 2007, Idaho Power Co. added 9,683 new customers, bringing its total number of customers to 463,288. Idaho Power serves nearly all of southern Idaho and part of western Oregon. While below the growth rate of the previous three years, the lower 2.1 percent annual increase is likely a more sustainable annual rate.
- Meridian-based RxElite Inc., which recently broke ground on a new facility in Nampa, has purchased Finetech Laboratories LTD of Haifa, Israel, for \$6.2 million in cash and stock. Finetech can deliver the complex pharmaceutical inputs RxElite uses in manufacturing a wide variety of specialty generic drugs.
- Great Britain based WDS Global, a third-party call center, will be opening a call center in Boise to provide specialist support for customers of cellular phone companies. WDS plans to open in February at the former Capital One Financial Services call center, hiring 600 people by the end of 2008. The company has offered no information on wages or benefits, but typically call center starting wages are around \$10 an hour with good benefit packages. At that wage in southwestern Idaho these jobs typically are only second wage earner jobs or jobs for students since the paycheck will not support a family.
- The Meridian School District has added two more professional-technical classes to beef up its effort to offer courses on skills preparing students for high-demand jobs in the region. One course covers masonry, which offers a higher-than-average wage and is a craft in high demand, especially on commercial construction projects using large amounts of bricks and mortar. The other course is smart technology, where students learn the latest in wiring entertainment, security and computer systems into newly constructed homes. As the construction industry changes rapidly these students are on the cutting edge of technology being introduced by area builders. Both courses are being financed through public-private partnerships.
- Initial classes for credit in professional-technical fields at the new College of Western Idaho are being delayed another year. The school now expects to offer these classes in fall 2009. Academic courses should be available next January. The College of Western Idaho wants to offer professional-technical courses for \$120 a credit hour versus Boise State University's current tuition rate of \$227 an hour at the Larry Selland College of Applied Technology. The two-year college has decided against offering classes jointly with Boise State to save \$2 million for needed computers and its own information system.
- Over a million square feet of retail space was occupied in Ada and Canyon counties during 2007, a re-

cord according to commercial real estate firm Thornton Oliver Keller. Despite that, however, vacant retail space still increased above 2006 levels as a result of significant volumes of commercial construction activity.

- A downtown Boise transit center is being considered at one of four sites. In 2005 Idaho received \$9.6 million in federal money to build the center as a gathering point for various modes of transportation from bicycles to buses to taxis. Ultimately transit officials hope it will be home to streetcars and large volume rail or bus systems. Construction should start in late 2009 or early 2010.
- Eagle-based Treasure Valley Business Group Inc. was recently purchased by California-based private equity firm Creo Capital Partners. Treasure Valley Business Group sells frozen and other packaged foods such as twice-baked potatoes, potato wedges, hash browns, popcorn, salad dressing and drink mixes to over 250 grocery stores and restaurants in the United States and Mexico.
- Ground has been broken on a new 290-foot, \$28 million air traffic control tower at the Boise Airport to improve the instrument landing system so pilots can land in inclement weather. Utah-based Layton Construction has the contract and should complete the tower by mid-2011.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Mountain Home School District patrons vote April 29 on a \$34.5 million bond to expand the junior high school into a high school. This would complete the district's expansion plans that began in 1998.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Woodgrain Millwork of Fruitland has bought a Broyhill Furniture lumberyard in North Carolina, gaining access to its dry kiln facilities. The 32-acre lumberyard cost \$1.7 million. Broyhill has been dramatically decreasing its presence in the United States and no longer manufactures wood furniture in the U.S.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Weiser High School has started a distance learning program via a two-way conference system with the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, offering two classes for seniors to earn college credits.
- The Weiser City Fire and Rescue Department has received a \$130,500 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to buy updated equipment for its mostly all-volunteer fire department.

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Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Unemployment in the Twin Falls-Jerome Small Labor Area bumped up just a tenth of a point to 2.3 percent in December. The increase was comparatively insignificant considering the three-tenths increase in the statewide rate and likely the result of extremely cold temperatures inhibiting construction and other weather-affected sectors. Year over year, the rate was three-quarters of a point below December 2006. The advent of new, permanent employment replacing the seasonal jobs of the past combined with increasing population has had a dramatic impact on the region's jobless picture. This past year was a record buster, particularly compared to previous years. The average annual rates were in a holding pattern between 4.1 percent and 4.3 percent from 2000 through 2004, dropping to 3.7 percent for 2005 and 3 percent for 2006. The average rate for 2007 was 2.4 percent. Idaho once again ranked fourth in the nation for population growth in 2007 with another gain of 2.4 percent. The increase of 35,000 is significant for a smaller-populated state like Idaho and could be compared to adding another town the size of Lewiston in north central Idaho or four more each the size of Burley.

The economy of south central Idaho remained healthy into the winter without the need for a booster shot. Strong agricultural prices and the quality of new jobs in the region resulted in a drop in December unemployment insurance claims year-over-year in four of the eight counties, an extraordinary achievement compared to the 29.4 percent increase in benefits paid out statewide in the same month. Weeks and benefits paid are found in SC Table 1.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Sun Valley Resort's golf course will be the site for the snow shoeing and cross country skiing competitions of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. These events were originally scheduled for Bogus Basin, but organizers ran into space constraints. Up to 3,000 athletes from 85 countries are expected to compete in the games Feb. 6-13, 2009. The economic impact for Idaho is estimated at \$50 million.
- The Idaho Department of Lands has awarded an \$8,700 grant to the city of Ketchum to plant trees under the Community Transportation Enhancement program to aesthetically improve Idaho's transportation corridors.
- The city of Bellevue's new Transportation Master Plan focuses on adding bike paths, crosswalks and sidewalks throughout the city rather than accommodating increased traffic. Safe Routes to Schools, the master plan's initial top priority, is designed to ensure the safety of students. The plan assumes the city's area will double in 20 years due to annexation. The master plan's initiatives are estimated to cost \$32 million.

CAMAS COUNTY

- A Fifth District judge has thrown out the county's updated zoning ordinance, holding that it was improperly adopted. The ordinance was challenged by Camas County builder George Martin, who owns 180

SC Table 1: Change in unemployment insurance payments and weeks paid, Dec. 2006 compared to Dec. 2007

Area	Weeks Paid	\$ Benefits Paid	Weeks Paid	\$ Benefits Paid	% Change	% Change
	Dec 2007		Dec 2006		# of Weeks	\$ Benefit Paid
State Overall	57,766	\$14,765,223.67	49,113	\$11,409,483.70	17.60%	29.40%
South Central Idaho	5,477	1,351,282.29	6,459	\$1,444,518.30	-15.20%	-6.50%

acres adjacent to the city of Fairfield. The court ruling leaves the county to implement its new comprehensive plan under the old ordinance, which county commissioners called outdated and inadequate to handle anticipated growth. The district court decision, however, is expected to be appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court.

GOODING COUNTY

- The campus of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind has rented space on its campus to Gooding's first charter school, North Valley Academy. The charter school was recently approved by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission and will serve students kindergarten through eighth grade, using nine of the state school's empty classrooms. The state school has seen its on-campus enrollment decline over the last three years as the emphasis shifts to reaching out regionally to provide education to sensory-deprived students. During the 2006-2007 school year, there were 67 students on the Gooding campus and over 800 in the outreach program. Less than 10 years ago, well over 100 students attended classes on campus. But there is no immediate timetable for determining the future of the Gooding facility.

JEROME COUNTY

- Crossroads Pointe, located just off the interstate on U.S. Highway 93, has another new tenant, Magic Valley Subway. This is the eighth store owned by Con and Cindy Paulos of Jerome. They anticipate their ninth store in Shoshone will be completed this spring. Each store averages 10 workers.

MINI-CASSIA

- Genesis Grouping Inc., a company that sells dairy harvesting equipment and provides monitoring services to dairies, has purchased a 10,000-square-foot building from the city of Burley for its main office. Consolidation of facilities in Buhl, Jerome and Rupert will allow the company to create a large showroom,

training center and parts inventory. The company has 16 employees but plans to hire more.

- All 1,800 registration slots in the Lions Club's annual Spudman Triathlon were taken in just three minutes this year. The field was increased to allow 200 more participants this year because of the intense interest in the race scheduled for July 26. It includes a 1.5-kilometer swim across the Snake River, a 40-kilometer cycling loop to Declo and back and a 10-kilometer run. Officials estimate the event draws 5,000 visitors to the area.
- A new equestrian therapy arena has been approved by Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission in a subdivision north of Rupert. Mental health services provider Pathways wants to provide equine-assisted psychotherapy to patients needing to develop stronger interpersonal relationship skills.
- The Raft River Highway District, which has less funding per mile than any other in Idaho, has gotten \$96,448 as its share of lease payments to the state for state land U.S. Geothermal is using for its geothermal energy plant. The windfall will assist the district in maintaining 271 miles of roads.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- The College of Southern Idaho will contract with Boise State University to provide a bachelor's degree in social work and two tracks to a master's degree to complement the current associate degree program. The master's program will start in the fall of 2008 with weekend and evening classes. The bachelor's program will offer day classes starting in the fall of 2009. The hourly median wage for social workers last year was \$19.48. The demand for social workers is not high statewide, but there are career advancement opportunities regionally. Currently the degrees can only be obtained by Magic Valley residents on the Boise State or Idaho State University campuses, both more than 100 miles away.

SC Table 2: Twin Falls Housing Sales Data, 2006 Compared to 2007

	New Construction Sales	Existing Home Sales	Overall
Average Price 2006	\$176,726	\$147,523	\$156,188
Average Price 2007	\$200,277	\$158,254	\$168,816
% Change	+13.3%	+7.3%	+8.1%
# of Units 2006	316	749	1,065
# of Units 2007	234	697	931
% Change	-25.9%	-6.9%	-12.6%
\$ Volume 2006	\$55,845,296	\$110,494,753	166,340,049
\$ Volume 2007	\$46,864,926	\$110,303,179	157,168,105
% Change	-16.1%	-.2%	-5.5%

Source: Twin Falls Multiple Listing Service

- The College of Southern Idaho is partnering with St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to secure high-tech patient simulators for use in both the laboratory of the new hospital and the new health science building planned for the college campus. This will make the technology available to all health care professionals in the region. The college is raising \$500,000 for the equipment. At the same time, one of the state's top health care educators, Claudeen Buettner, has retired after 36 years at the school where she ultimately served as chief academic officer and executive vice president. She has been a major force in nursing education and is responsible for the significant expansion of the health care curriculum at the college.
- The media have expounded on the lackluster state of the residential real estate market, but the information provided by the Twin Falls Multiple Listing Service paints a less dismal picture locally as shown in SC Table 2 on page 13. Certainly, price appreciation is continuing, particularly in the new construction sales with an upswing of 13.3 percent from 2006 to

2007. Inventories are dropping, but homes are still sitting on the market longer than in the past so builders are being forced to be patient if they want to see some price appreciation — depending on their individual financial situations. There is definitely a distinction between new construction and existing homes with the volume and value of new home sales falling more sharply. The number of new home sales is typically a smaller portion of the market due to the cost differential. The south central region's median wage typically lags the state and the nation. The value of all home sales dropped 5.5 percent from 2006 while the number of sales was off 12.6 percent. Still, the average price was up 8.1 percent from 2006, something builders would envy in Nevada, Florida or California where the subprime loan debacle has hit the hardest.

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Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The unemployment rate rose only fractionally from November to December in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area. The one-tenth of a point bump to 2.8 percent meant only 50 more workers were without jobs in December, primarily because of the temporary lay-offs at Con Agra in Power County. Jobs lost to cold and inclement winter weather in construction and agriculture-related trades were nearly offset by a boost in food manufacturing and government services. This realignment is fairly typical during the winter. It appears local retailers were in line with a national trend this holiday season, holding back on holiday hiring. Unemployment rates for nearly all of the counties in southeastern Idaho remained low and in most cases below a year earlier. See SE Table 1 for details. The slight increase in Oneida County reflects a reduction in the work force at Hess Pumice. Most of the workers who were laid off are believed to have found jobs but are commuting 30 or 40 miles.

SE Table 1: Southeastern Idaho County Unemployment Rates — December 2007, December 2006

County/Area	Dec 2007	Dec 2006
Bannock	3.30%	2.50%
Bear Lake	2.70%	2.30%
Bingham	3.00%	2.80%
Caribou	3.80%	2.90%
Franklin	2.90%	1.60%
Oneida	2.10%	1.90%
Power	4.50%	5.50%

SPECIAL TOPIC — Volunteerism and the Labor Force

Labor statistics are most often related to the civilian labor force, which includes civilian workers 16 years of age and older not residing in institutions, who are either employed, or unemployed and actively seeking work. But another segment of the American work force which is often overlooked but merits recognition is the volunteer work force. Volunteers work without the expectation of a tangible reward, and Americans have a reputation for volunteer-

ing their time and talents to help others. Often the volunteers say their time spent working as a volunteer is more personally rewarding than if they were getting paid a wage. There is much empirical evidence that volunteering results in health benefits to the volunteer. In addition there is also substantial economic activity that is often not considered part of the economy but in fact is a very important element. Without volunteerism at all levels, each governmental unit would need to be much larger to provide the social, cultural and educational activities volunteers now provide. Eighty percent of volunteering is in the nonprofit independent sector such as the Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross and American Cancer Society where volunteer time is one-quarter of the total labor input. The other 20 percent involves a wide range of governmental and quasi-governmental entities.

In the mid-1990s the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the rule-making group for the accounting profession, issued standards requiring nonprofits to report the value of volunteer services as part of their contributions on external financial statements. Before this most agencies would make a mention of volunteer work in a footnote and not assign it a value and some would fail to make any mention of volunteer help. The new standard is providing better information on the extent of volunteer help. Data on volunteering was collected through a supplement to the September 2007 Current Population Survey and was recently made available at http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_subjects.htm#volunteering. It shows that about 61 million people volunteered some work at least once between September 2006 and September 2007. This number represented about 26 percent of the population, down a half point from the previous year and over 2.5 percentage points in two years. The median time spent on volunteer activities during that year was 52 hours, and both men and women reported the same median volunteer time. Individuals with higher levels of education volunteered at higher rates than those with lower education levels. Employed individuals reported more time spent volunteering than unemployed workers. And individuals not in the civilian work force reported volunteering substantially more than the others.

Each organization is encouraged to report the value of volunteer services based on the work actually performed by volunteers and not on the rate of pay volunteers get at their regular jobs. The estimated dollar amount assigned to volunteer time in 2005 by Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, was \$18.04 per hour for the nation and \$13.55 for Idaho volunteer workers. Using the same percentages of participation for the southeastern Idaho population as the nation, there would have been 43,788 individuals volunteering 2.2 million hours of time at a rate of \$13 an hour for a total value of nearly \$29 million in 2007.

SPECIAL TOPIC — Dwindling Interest in Reserve Program

High prices for many of the crops grown in southeastern Idaho may have diminished area farmers' interest in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. State policy makers had hoped the voluntary cooperative state and federal program would result in 100,000 acres of cropland being idled, reducing the amount of water pumped from the Snake River Plain Aquifer by 200,000 acre feet each year. Operators receive an annual payment per acre if they agree not to farm the land for 15 years. Participation would also reduce chemicals, contaminants and sediment entering the Snake River system. The deadline for application was extended from Dec. 31 to March 15 in hopes more farmers would sign up. According to Steve Fullmer, executive director of Bingham County's U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency, land subject to curtailment of water will not be eligible for the reserve if a curtailment order is issued prior to application. If a curtailment order is issued after the land has been accepted in the program the contracts will still be honored.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- More than 100 vendors set up in Holt Arena in mid-January for what is becoming known as the biggest and best agricultural show in Idaho. The show attracts people from all over the United States and other countries.
- A Travelocity.com article about favorite stops in America listed the Mystique Theater in Chubbuck and Buddy's restaurant in Pocatello as two of the best. There were 295 sites selected from more than 10,000 nominations. The free advertising will last for a year. It is too early to know if the recognition on an international Web site is resulting in any more sales, but with the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver there is a good chance it will.
- Virginia Transformer recently moved into a larger building in the Gateway West industrial park, spending about \$1 million on equipment last year and planning to spend another \$1.5 million in 2008 to meet rising demand. The company is planning to hire 25 new workers. Its payroll currently is 170.
- Construction on a \$6.3 million addition to Idaho State University's Student Recreation Center is slated to begin this spring. The two-level structure is funded entirely by student fees and will include a fitness center, multi-purpose rooms, lounges and administrative offices.
- Construction activity in 2007 for Bannock County did not quite keep up with the record pace of 2006, but it was one of the busiest on record, according to Pocatello building official, Lynn Transtrum. Total value of permits in 2007 was \$70.1 million compared to \$93.3 million in 2006. The difference was primarily residential construction. In 2006 residential construc-

tion value was about \$30 million, and it fell to \$19 million in 2007. Commercial construction also slowed but not as much as it might seem. Much of the construction taking place in early 2007 was done on permits purchased in 2006 and work carried over throughout the winter months. Prior to 2006, construction permits averaged around \$40 million a year, according to Transtrum.

- Idaho Power Co. will build a \$14.8 million substation for Hoku Scientific Inc.'s planned polysilicon plant in Pocatello. As part of the construction agreement, Hoku made an initial payment of \$3.75 million to Idaho Power on Jan. 8. The substation should be completed by Feb. 15, 2009.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- The Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway Committee prioritized the Gutzon Borglum Memorial as a project for 2008. Initial plans call for a sculpted memorial in St. Charles and a visitor's site in Bloomington. The committee is also working with a developer on the feasibility of a Bear Lake overlook in the Fish Haven area.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission has approved zoning for a subdivision northeast of Shelley consisting of 83 one-third-acre lots connected to community water and sewer systems.
- The Eastern Idaho State Fair had another good year in 2007. Despite rainy and cold days, which caused cancellation of some events, attendance and revenue were up from 2006. The fair employs nearly 400 workers part-time and is a large economic stimulus for Blackfoot and all of southeastern Idaho. Revenue for the 2007 fair totaled \$2.9 million.
- Idaho State University Director of Workforce Training Joe Fleishman urged members of the Greater Blackfoot Chamber of Commerce to consider the benefits of maintaining a well-trained work force. He discussed the many opportunities for training that exist for every imaginable occupation. In addition to numerous on-site, video-trainer and self-study courses, there are more than 500 online courses available. Find out more by calling (208) 282-3372 or logging onto the Web at to <http://workforcetraining.isu.edu>.
- A 42,500-square-foot medical office building for family practice doctors, general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, dermatologists, obstetricians and gynecologists will be completed in December. The building, which will also house a pain clinic and the Rural Health Clinic, is being financed by Bingham Memorial Hospital and individual physicians.
- Areas potato farmers welcomed the news that the United Nations has declared 2008 as the "International Year of the Potato." The declaration should increase awareness of the potato's impor-

tance as a food for developing countries. The potato was selected because of its nutritional value and ability to be grown in harsh climates. The last time the U.N. declared an international year dedicated to a single food was 2004 when rice was selected.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- The efforts of many companies and individuals to control air emissions were recognized when recent air quality control surveys were released by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Past surveys have found Caribou County with emissions that exceeded standards, but the most recent surveys found Caribou County well within limits.
- Increased crop prices this past year pushed Agrium's Conda phosphate operation to another production record. The increase will not be a great deal larger than the 2006 record, but slow and steady growth is encouraging to Agrium management and workers. As prices for crops increase, producers are more likely to buy fertilizers. Agrium's Conda plant employs 265 workers, and another 130 work in mining and other directly related occupations. In June 2008, Agrium plans to shut the plant down to install a \$9 million sulphuric acid converter and drying tower.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Larry H. Miller family is donating 20 acres in north Preston for the new Franklin County Medical Center facility. The new clinic is estimated to cost \$15 million.
- Preston City Council is considering impact fees to help mitigate growth-related costs. The fees would raise revenue for new or expanding public facilities such as water lines and waste treatment plants to serve a growing population.
- Commuter bus ridership continues to rise for the Preston-to-Logan Cache Valley Transit District bus service. In December 2007 there were 1,087 rides, up significantly from 670 riders a year earlier. Company officials want to develop other border routes like Bear Lake to Rich County and Oneida to Box Elder County.

POWER COUNTY

- Power County Building Administrator Bob Steinlicht said three subdivisions have been approved in the county in the last six months. Steinlicht speculated that just the talk of new businesses such as the proposed energy center near the Con-Agra potato processing plant has sparked an interest in developing subdivisions.

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Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- The city of Idaho Falls has created a human resources department to take over personnel matters from the Municipal Services Division. The new director is Julie Jackson, an Idaho Falls native who moved back after two decades in New York to be close to her mother. Jackson believes employees are any organization's greatest asset.
- Bonneville County is getting its first county-owned morgue, converting the Bonneville County Drug Court Treatment Center. In the past, the county has relied on Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and local funeral homes to hold bodies awaiting autopsies. The treatment center downtown should be remodeled into a morgue before the end of 2008. The county has to wait about six months for other projects to be completed before renovation can begin. The space became available when the Eastern Idaho Public Health District moved out, and the drug treatment center moved into that building along with adult probation services.
- The Utah Helicopter Flight Academy just opened in Idaho Falls at the Red Baron hanger at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport. The academy, the company's third, is being run by Brian Peterson and Gary Hansen with two helicopters. The other five helicopters are based at their West Jordan and Spanish Fork academies in Utah.
- CH2M Hill recently opened a network operations center in Idaho Falls, in part to provide job opportunities to those being laid off as the Idaho Cleanup Project progresses at the Idaho National Laboratory. The Denver-based construction company, a partner in the Idaho Cleanup Project, needs information technology personnel to provide technical assistance and data storage management for businesses CH2M Hill deals with around the world. CH2M Hill has a similar Managed Services Division in Atlanta. The company will start with 20 people at the Idaho Falls center and expand to 40 to handle national and international activity.
- Volunteers expect to have the Eagle Rock Food Cooperative operating by the end of February in downtown Idaho Falls. The co-op will offer products from local farmers and merchants, mostly organic foods grown without antibiotics or pesticides. It plans to sell organic

beef, turkey, chicken and pork from north central Idaho and southern Montana and is looking for locally-grown produce. About 400 people have paid the \$75 annual membership fee that gives them a 5 percent discount on purchases and voting rights on store operations. After opening, memberships will cost \$150.

BUTTE COUNTY

- The town of Arco is finally getting its bowling alley back. Called Root Hog in its early days as county seat when it was the junction of two stagecoach routes, Arco's bowling alley had been converted to the town watering hole. But native John Wanstrom just bought the old bowling alley, took out the bar, fixed the lanes and machines and painted the place, all with the help of local volunteers who spent more than 1,500 hours on the \$35,000 renovation. The alley is now a place for all ages to hang out in the small desert town although it still lacks a few things such as insulation.

LEMHI COUNTY

- Salmon City Administrator Gary Van Huffel has resigned to take a job with Oregon's Main Street Program, modeled after a national program to revitalize downtowns. Van Huffel served in Salmon's city government for the past six years, starting as grant coordinator and then as director of the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural and Education Center before becoming city administrator. Van Huffel was known for his passion and vision, things that will now be sorely missed by the community.

MADISON COUNTY

- The Rexburg Police Department received a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to acquire a remote viewing system and train officers to use it. The camera mounted on an adjustable pole and connected to a remote viewer can be used in situations where police or others might become dangerously exposed. It can also help officers in hazardous or confined spaces, hostage situations or drug investigations. The system should be in full operation this spring.

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MULTIPLE JOBS HELP IDAHO WORKERS SUPPLEMENT INCOME

Idaho's work force maintains one of the nation's highest percentages of multiple job holders, and various studies suggest that reflects the quality of jobs in the labor market and the wages available to the state's workers.

The latest estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics identify 8.3 percent of Idaho's work force - about 60,000 workers - as having more than one job in 2006. That was up from 8 percent in 2005 and ranked ninth among the states.

Nationally, about 5.2 percent of the labor force - 7.5 million workers - held more than one job in 2006.

The estimates are based on responses from 60,000 households nationwide to the monthly Current Population Survey conducted by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. About 800 of Idaho's nearly 550,000 households are surveyed each month.

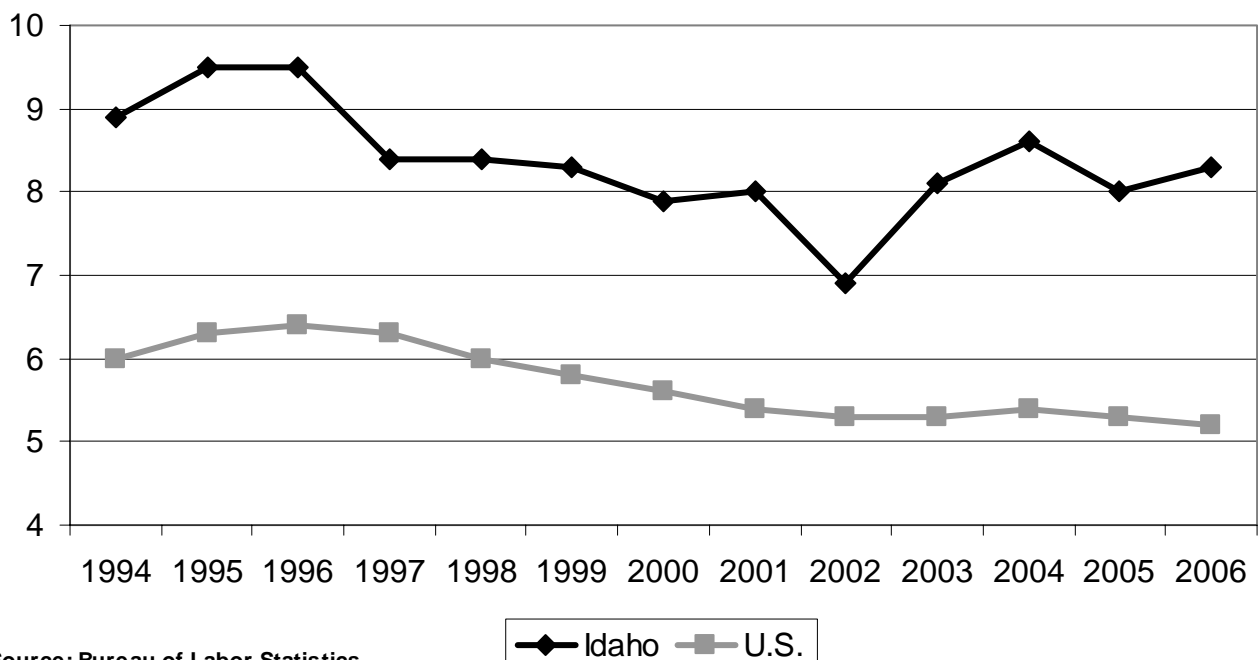
Idaho's multiple jobholding rate averaged 9.3 percent a year during the mid-1990s before dropping to an annual average of just over 8 percent in the years just preceding the national recession of 2001.

Since then it has fluctuated from a low of 6.9 percent in 2002, possibly because job creation in Idaho was flat during the recession and would-be multiple job holders had no room to maneuver, to 8.6 percent in 2004.

A multiple jobholder works two or more jobs for wages or works a job for wages and operates a personal business or works a job for wages and then as a unpaid family member in a business.

The reasons workers hold more than one job are varied, but research by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found at least one in four multiple job holders is simply trying to make ends meet or paying off debt.

FYI Chart 1: Percent of Workers Holding Multiple Jobs



There are those, especially some professionals, who have second jobs because they enjoy the work and others who are building their own businesses while working a regular job for a steady paycheck.

Some of Idaho's high percentage of multiple job holders results from the state's reputation for entrepreneurialism that has produced the 10th highest number of non-employee businesses per capita in the country. In 2005, the most recent year figures are available for, Idaho had over 106,000 non-employee businesses - nearly 75 for every 1,000 residents. Vermont was the highest at 96 per 1,000, and West Virginia was the lowest at just under 50 per 1,000 residents.

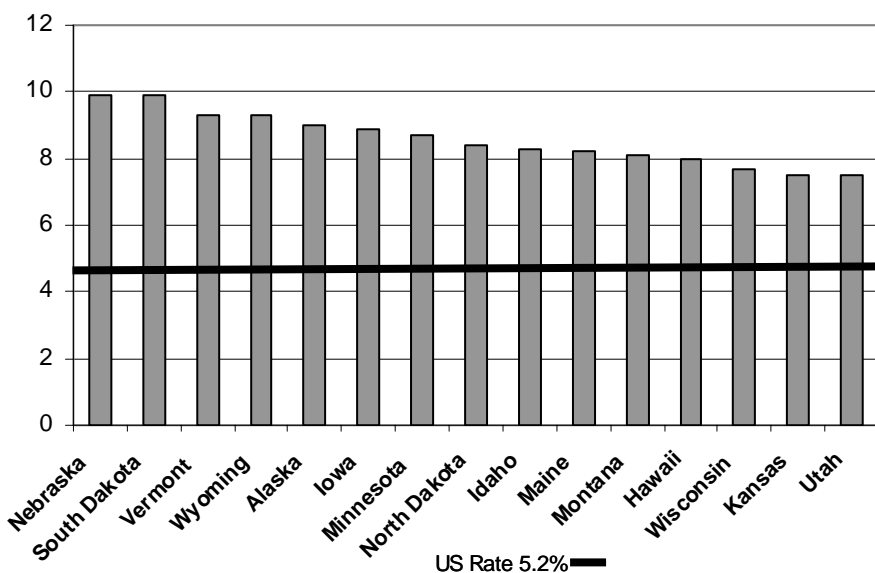
Some state research has also pegged the rate of multiple job holders to agriculture's economic prominence in a state and the harshness of its winter, concluding that more farmers and ranchers mean more multiple job holders, especially in less hospitable winter climates where outdoor work is severely restricted. With agriculture accounting for about 5 percent of the gross state product, at least some of Idaho's multiple jobholding rate could be attributed to this.

But research in neighboring Wyoming, Montana and Utah has linked high rates of multiple job holders with relatively lower wages, and a comparison of the states with the highest multiple jobholding rates, including Idaho, shows that in 2006 and generally over the last decade the average annual wages in those states have been among the lowest in the nation.

Idaho ranked ninth in percentage of multiple job holders in 2006 and 45th in average annual wage. Nebraska was first in multiple job holders and 40th in wages while South Dakota was second and 50th in wages.

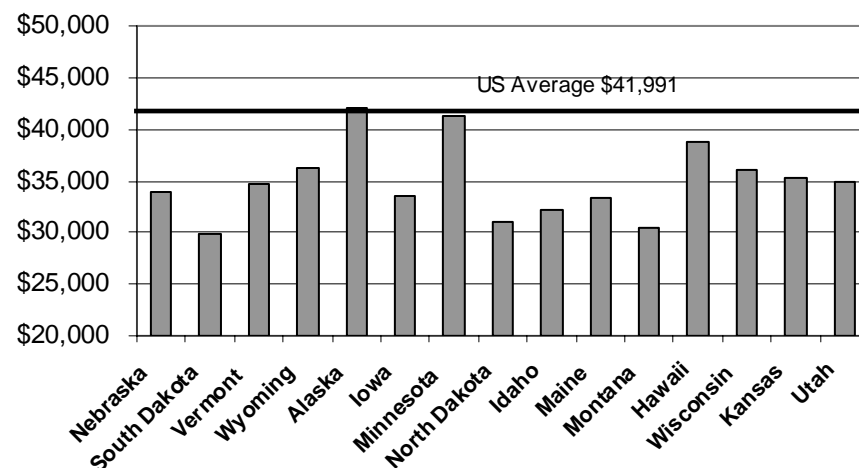
For the most part, the states with the highest percentage of multiple job holders had average annual wages ranking in the bottom third of all the states. The exceptions were Minnesota and Wisconsin, both

FYI Chart 2: States with Highest 2006 Percentage of Multiple Jobholders



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

FYI Chart 3: Average Annual Wage in Highest Multi-Jobholder States



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

heavily agricultural states in the nation's northern latitudes, and Alaska and Hawaii, whose economies are inflated from those in the contiguous 48 states.

Wyoming also moved out of the bottom third of wage states in 2006 as demand skyrocketed for workers in the high-paying oil patch.

See additional table on page 20.

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FYI Table – December 2007

FYI Table 1: Rankings of Highest Multiple Jobholders' Average Annual Wages

		Neb	SD	Vt	Wyo	Alaska	Iowa	Minn	ND	Idaho	Maine	Mont	Hawaii	Wis	Kan	Utah
2006	Wage	40	50	37	29	12	42	16	47	45	43	49	22	30	34	36
	Jobs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2005	Wage	40	50	34	36	13	42	14	47	46	41	49	22	30	33	37
	Jobs	5	3	8	1	4	6	7	2	12	14	10	13	15	9	11
2004	Wage	37	49	33	42	14	41	13	47	46	38	50	22	30	34	35
	Jobs	8	2	9	3	11	13	10	1	7	12	4	14	15	5	6
2003	Wage	37	49	33	42	13	41	14	47	46	38	50	23	29	34	35
	Jobs	2	5	4	9	12	14	8	1	10	11	7	13	15	6	3
2002	Wage	39	49	35	42	12	41	14	47	45	40	50	24	30	34	33
	Jobs	1	5	4	7	13	10	3	2	15	14	6	8	12	9	11
2001	Wage	39	49	34	42	14	41	13	48	45	40	50	26	29	32	31
	Jobs	1	6	13	5	10	9	7	2	12	16	4	3	11	8	14
2000	Wage	36	49	35	43	14	40	13	48	42	41	50	26	29	32	31
	Jobs	1	6	5	7	15	10	9	2	13	8	3	4	12	11	18
1999	Wage	38	49	35	43	12	41	13	48	42	39	50	24	28	32	31
	Jobs	6	5	9	7	8	11	3	1	12	15	2	4	13	10	18
1998	Wage	39	50	36	44	9	41	13	48	45	40	49	24	28	33	31
	Jobs	4	6	10	7	8	12	3	1	13	17	2	9	11	5	16
1997	Wage	38	50	36	43	7	41	12	49	45	40	48	21	28	33	32
	Jobs	1	4	10	8	16	9	5	2	14	11	6	12	7	3	17

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

State of Idaho Data – December 2007

December 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to December 2006 data *(continued on page 22)*

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Dec 2007				Dec 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	761,047	22,971	3.0	738,076	755,388	24,280	3.2	731,108
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	203,201	4,729	2.3	198,472	198,649	4,870	2.5	193,780
ADAMS	1,921	172	9.0	1,749	2,062	160	7.8	1,901
BANNOCK (8)	40,448	1,026	2.5	39,422	41,051	1,362	3.3	39,689
BEAR LAKE	3,031	70	2.3	2,961	3,120	84	2.7	3,036
BENEWAH	4,486	359	8.0	4,127	4,296	293	6.8	4,003
BINGHAM	19,555	556	2.8	18,998	20,239	606	3.0	19,634
BLAINE (5)	15,098	313	2.1	14,785	14,750	353	2.4	14,397
BOISE (1)	4,012	160	4.0	3,852	3,803	115	3.0	3,687
BONNER	22,079	812	3.7	21,267	21,049	962	4.6	20,087
BONNEVILLE (6)	48,144	988	2.1	47,157	46,644	1,142	2.4	45,502
BOUNDARY	4,259	290	6.8	3,969	4,137	341	8.3	3,796
BUTTE	1,023	30	3.0	993	1,155	44	3.8	1,111
CAMAS (5)	669	24	3.6	645	671	12	1.9	658
CANYON (1)	86,082	3,084	3.6	82,998	83,713	2,980	3.6	80,733
CARIBOU	3,394	97	2.9	3,296	3,549	136	3.8	3,412
CASSIA (2)	9,131	319	3.5	8,812	10,419	332	3.2	10,087
CLARK	445	20	4.4	425	587	19	3.3	568
CLEARWATER	3,328	335	10.1	2,993	3,214	231	7.2	2,983
CUSTER	2,190	111	5.0	2,079	2,521	104	4.1	2,417
ELMORE	11,056	441	4.0	10,615	10,686	392	3.7	10,295
FRANKLIN	6,654	110	1.6	6,544	6,547	193	2.9	6,354
FREMONT (9)	5,975	232	3.9	5,742	6,552	218	3.3	6,334
GEM (1)	7,820	286	3.7	7,534	7,709	291	3.8	7,418
GOODING	8,656	182	2.1	8,475	8,282	179	2.2	8,103
IDAHO	7,063	478	6.8	6,585	7,075	444	6.3	6,632
JEFFERSON (6)	10,611	264	2.5	10,347	10,397	287	2.8	10,110
JEROME (10)	10,420	284	2.7	10,136	10,283	295	2.9	9,988
KOOTENAI (3)	72,188	2,545	3.5	69,643	69,687	2,661	3.8	67,026
LATAH	16,180	481	3.0	15,699	19,370	453	2.3	18,917
LEMHI	3,535	215	6.1	3,320	3,920	222	5.7	3,698
LEWIS (4)	1,711	47	2.7	1,665	1,720	50	2.9	1,670
LINCOLN	2,402	118	4.9	2,284	2,701	105	3.9	2,596
MADISON (9)	14,708	264	1.8	14,444	14,709	245	1.7	14,464
MINIDOKA (2)	8,546	356	4.2	8,190	9,751	387	4.0	9,364
NEZ PERCE (7)	19,482	548	2.8	18,934	18,885	721	3.8	18,164
ONEIDA	2,326	43	1.9	2,282	2,265	47	2.1	2,217
OWYHEE (1)	5,086	72	1.4	5,014	5,324	76	1.4	5,247
PAYETTE	10,090	491	4.9	9,600	10,515	507	4.8	10,009
POWER (8)	3,882	215	5.5	3,667	4,205	188	4.5	4,017
SHOSHONE	5,816	351	6.0	5,465	5,746	421	7.3	5,325
TETON	5,115	118	2.3	4,998	4,810	111	2.3	4,699
TWIN FALLS (10)	38,783	872	2.2	37,911	38,523	1,172	3.0	37,351
VALLEY	5,462	275	5.0	5,188	4,873	221	4.5	4,652
WASHINGTON	4,969	190	3.8	4,779	5,213	246	4.7	4,966
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,846	655	6.0	10,191	10,174	404	4.0	9,770

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

December 2007 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to December 2006 data (continued from page 21)

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Dec 2007				Dec 2006			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
LABOR MARKET AREAS								
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	306,201	8,331	2.7	297,870	299,198	8,332	2.8	290,866
BURLEY MicSA (2)	17,676	674	3.8	17,002	20,170	719	3.6	19,451
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	72,188	2,545	3.5	69,643	69,687	2,661	3.8	67,026
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	8,774	524	6.0	8,249	8,795	494	5.6	8,301
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,767	337	2.1	15,430	15,421	366	2.4	15,055
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	58,755	1,251	2.1	57,504	57,041	1,429	2.5	55,612
LEWISTON MSA (7)	30,328	1,203	4.0	29,125	29,059	1,125	3.9	27,933
POCATELLO MSA (8)	44,330	1,241	2.8	43,089	45,256	1,550	3.4	43,706
REXBURG MicSA (9)	20,683	496	2.4	20,187	21,261	463	2.2	20,798
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	49,204	1,156	2.3	48,047	48,806	1,467	3.0	47,339
CITIES								
BOISE	116,006	3,224	2.8	112,782	126,711	3,249	2.6	123,462
CALDWELL	17,199	690	4.0	16,509	15,927	603	3.8	15,324
COEUR D' ALENE	22,898	701	3.1	22,197	22,503	857	3.8	21,646
IDAHO FALLS	27,842	649	2.3	27,193	29,136	749	2.6	28,387
LEWISTON	15,978	426	2.7	15,551	15,866	562	3.5	15,304
MERIDIAN	29,492	928	3.1	28,564	22,362	374	1.7	21,988
NAMPA	36,617	1,256	3.4	35,361	32,829	1,233	3.8	31,596
POCATELLO	28,693	749	2.6	27,944	28,371	798	2.8	27,573
TWIN FALLS	21,111	508	2.4	20,603	20,414	619	3.0	19,795
United States*	153,866	7,655	5.0	146,211	152,709	6,760	4.5	145,949

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs

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Idaho's Labor Market Information System
Your source for labor market information for the state of Idaho. Within this site you can find economic information to help you make informed decisions whether you are an employer or a job seeker, a student or an economic analyst.

What's News

December Unemployment Rate Increases to 3 Percent
A continuing slowdown in construction, a soft holiday shopping season and layoffs in manufacturing pushed Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate up three-tenths of a percentage point to 3 percent in December.

Nationally, unemployment increased by three-tenths to 5 percent, the 75th month it has been higher than the Idaho rate.

December's increase was the largest November-to-

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Annual Average Labor Force Data, 2007, 2006, 2005 (cont. to page 24)

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Annual Average 2007				Annual Average 2006				Annual Average 2005			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	758,789	19,920	2.6	738,869	749,244	25,623	3.4	723,621	727,463	28,997	4.0	698,466
COUNTIES												
ADA (1)	200,726	4,467	2.2	196,259	195,521	5,287	2.7	190,233	186,449	6,127	3.3	180,323
ADAMS	2,076	105	5.1	1,970	2,094	137	6.5	1,957	1,872	152	8.1	1,720
BANNOCK (8)	40,508	1,059	2.6	39,448	40,788	1,411	3.5	39,377	42,331	1,543	3.6	40,788
BEAR LAKE	3,106	68	2.2	3,038	3,099	95	3.1	3,004	2,998	123	4.1	2,875
BENEWAH	4,384	226	5.2	4,158	4,351	310	7.1	4,041	3,968	308	7.7	3,661
BINGHAM	20,560	497	2.4	20,063	20,750	721	3.5	20,029	20,811	773	3.7	20,039
BLAINE (5)	14,830	280	1.9	14,550	14,513	365	2.5	14,148	13,800	393	2.8	13,408
BOISE (1)	3,922	107	2.7	3,815	3,830	132	3.4	3,698	3,670	165	4.5	3,505
BONNER	21,380	702	3.3	20,677	20,837	938	4.5	19,899	20,087	1,038	5.2	19,049
BONNEVILLE (6)	48,138	970	2.0	47,168	46,970	1,314	2.8	45,656	49,090	1,453	3.0	47,637
BOUNDARY	4,271	229	5.4	4,042	4,259	302	7.1	3,957	4,162	333	8.0	3,828
BUTTE	1,140	34	3.0	1,106	1,199	51	4.2	1,148	1,206	60	4.9	1,146
CAMAS (5)	650	13	2.0	637	636	17	2.7	619	611	24	3.9	587
CANYON (1)	84,127	2,456	2.9	81,672	82,107	2,943	3.6	79,164	78,496	3,457	4.4	75,040
CARIBOU	3,491	95	2.7	3,396	3,441	137	4.0	3,305	3,255	172	5.3	3,083
CASSIA (2)	10,077	279	2.8	9,797	10,481	400	3.8	10,081	9,876	457	4.6	9,418
CLARK	524	12	2.4	511	531	20	3.8	511	536	27	5.0	509
CLEARWATER	3,305	220	6.7	3,084	3,330	275	8.2	3,056	3,314	311	9.4	3,004
CUSTER	2,472	76	3.1	2,396	2,576	105	4.1	2,471	2,554	129	5.1	2,425
ELMORE	11,233	374	3.3	10,859	10,871	447	4.1	10,425	10,739	494	4.6	10,245
FRANKLIN	6,403	112	1.8	6,291	6,324	179	2.8	6,145	6,101	197	3.2	5,905
FREMONT (9)	6,087	161	2.6	5,926	5,991	222	3.7	5,770	5,986	235	3.9	5,751
GEM (1)	7,706	231	3.0	7,476	7,539	293	3.9	7,246	7,211	342	4.7	6,869
GOODING	8,540	167	2.0	8,373	8,624	229	2.7	8,396	7,988	243	3.0	7,745
IDAHO	7,187	326	4.5	6,861	7,160	440	6.1	6,720	7,019	471	6.7	6,547
JEFFERSON (6)	10,560	231	2.2	10,329	10,316	318	3.1	9,998	10,782	350	3.2	10,432
JEROME (10)	10,348	255	2.5	10,093	10,411	327	3.1	10,084	9,756	363	3.7	9,393
KOOTENAI (3)	70,843	2,094	3.0	68,749	69,442	2,638	3.8	66,804	65,824	2,988	4.5	62,836
LATAH	17,180	418	2.4	16,762	18,592	554	3.0	18,038	17,659	625	3.5	17,034
LEMIH	3,910	161	4.1	3,749	4,024	222	5.5	3,803	3,997	241	6.0	3,756
LEWIS (4)	1,778	45	2.5	1,734	1,751	53	3.0	1,698	1,714	60	3.5	1,654
LINCOLN	2,504	75	3.0	2,430	2,611	102	3.9	2,508	2,376	106	4.5	2,270
MADISON (9)	15,033	287	1.9	14,746	14,748	392	2.7	14,356	14,714	403	2.7	14,311
MINIDOKA (2)	9,434	320	3.4	9,114	9,820	442	4.5	9,378	9,298	537	5.8	8,761

Annual Average Labor Force Data, 2007, 2006, 2005 (cont. from page 23)

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Annual Average 2007				Annual Average 2006				Annual Average 2005			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- played	% Unem- played	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	758,789	19,920	2.6	738,869	749,244	25,623	3.4	723,621	727,463	28,997	4.0	698,466
COUNTIES												
NEZ PERCE (7)	19,230	544	2.8	18,687	18,937	728	3.8	18,209	20,209	837	4.1	19,372
ONEIDA	2,311	40	1.7	2,271	2,232	52	2.3	2,181	2,107	54	2.6	2,053
OWYHEE (1)	5,079	85	1.7	4,994	4,949	109	2.2	4,841	4,703	115	2.4	4,588
PAYETTE	10,398	372	3.6	10,026	10,398	563	5.4	9,835	10,221	717	7.0	9,505
POWER (8)	3,793	134	3.5	3,660	3,835	182	4.7	3,653	3,959	175	4.4	3,784
SHOSHONE	5,675	282	5.0	5,393	5,759	417	7.2	5,342	5,588	439	7.8	5,150
TETON	4,831	73	1.5	4,758	4,634	104	2.2	4,530	4,433	132	3.0	4,301
TWIN FALLS (10)	38,567	894	2.3	37,673	38,864	1,227	3.2	37,638	36,404	1,344	3.7	35,060
VALLEY	5,300	177	3.3	5,123	5,022	199	4.0	4,823	4,602	221	4.8	4,380
WASHINGTON	5,176	169	3.3	5,007	5,074	225	4.4	4,849	4,986	266	5.3	4,720
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,558	508	4.8	10,051	10,208	498	4.9	9,710	11,222	632	5.6	10,590
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	301,560	7,345	2.4	294,215	293,946	8,764	3.0	285,182	280,529	10,205	3.6	270,324
BURLEY Micsa (2)	19,510	599	3.1	18,911	20,302	842	4.1	19,460	19,174	994	5.2	18,179
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,843	2,094	3.0	68,749	69,442	2,638	3.8	66,804	65,824	2,988	4.5	62,836
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	8,965	371	4.1	8,594	8,911	494	5.5	8,418	8,733	531	6.1	8,202
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,480	293	1.9	15,187	15,149	382	2.5	14,767	14,411	417	2.9	13,994
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	58,698	1,201	2.0	57,497	57,286	1,632	2.8	55,654	59,872	1,803	3.0	58,069
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,789	1,052	3.5	28,737	29,145	1,226	4.2	27,919	31,431	1,469	4.7	29,962
POCATELLO MSA (8)	44,301	1,193	2.7	43,108	44,623	1,593	3.6	43,030	46,290	1,718	3.7	44,572
REXBURG Micsa (9)	21,120	448	2.1	20,672	20,739	613	3.0	20,126	20,700	638	3.1	20,062
TWIN FALLS Micsa (10)	48,915	1,149	2.3	47,765	49,275	1,553	3.2	47,722	46,160	1,707	3.7	44,453
CITIES												
BOISE	116,307	2,579	2.2	113,728	124,308	3,624	2.9	120,684	118,596	4,200	3.5	114,396
CALDWELL	17,114	550	3.2	16,564	15,573	633	4.1	14,940	14,905	744	5.0	14,162
COEUR D' ALENE	22,517	639	2.8	21,878	22,365	870	3.9	21,494	21,204	986	4.7	20,218
IDAHO FALLS	27,423	576	2.1	26,848	28,928	897	3.1	28,031	30,239	992	3.3	29,247
LEWISTON	16,072	423	2.6	15,650	15,931	591	3.7	15,339	16,999	679	4.0	16,319
MERIDIAN	29,500	660	2.2	28,840	21,844	426	2.0	21,418	20,796	494	2.4	20,302
NAMPA	36,529	1,049	2.9	35,480	32,132	1,258	3.9	30,875	30,744	1,477	4.8	29,266
POCATELLO	28,709	700	2.4	28,009	28,574	861	3.0	27,712	29,648	942	3.2	28,706
TWIN FALLS	21,135	497	2.4	20,638	20,495	655	3.2	19,841	19,199	717	3.7	18,482
United States*	153,866	7,655										145,949

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs

State of Idaho Data

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	660,500	664,500	647,900	-0.6	1.9
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	118,700	121,300	122,500	-2.1	-3.1
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	4,900	5,100	4,300	-3.9	14.0
Logging	1,800	1,900	2,000	-5.3	-10.0
Mining	3,100	3,200	2,300	-3.1	34.8
Metal Ore Mining	1,000	1,000	800	0.0	25.0
<i>Construction</i>	50,400	52,400	51,600	-3.8	-2.3
<i>Manufacturing</i>	63,400	63,800	66,600	-0.6	-4.8
Durable Goods	41,500	41,600	43,400	-0.2	-4.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,600	7,700	7,800	-1.3	-2.6
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,300	2,300	2,500	0.0	-8.0
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,800	3,900	3,800	-2.6	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,700	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	2,800	2,900	2,900	-3.4	-3.4
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	15,600	15,500	17,100	0.6	-8.8
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,400	0.0	5.9
Other Durable Goods	7,200	7,200	7,500	0.0	-4.0
Nondurable Goods	21,900	22,200	23,200	-1.4	-5.6
Food Manufacturing	13,900	14,100	14,700	-1.4	-5.4
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,400	6,400	7,400	0.0	-13.5
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,600	0.0	6.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,300	2,300	2,100	0.0	9.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2,100	2,200	2,900	-4.5	-27.6
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	541,800	543,200	525,400	-0.3	3.1
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	136,000	136,700	133,300	-0.5	2.0
Trade	115,500	116,000	112,200	-0.4	2.9
Wholesale Trade	27,600	27,800	27,400	-0.7	0.7
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,600	12,400	12,600	1.6	0.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,100	12,200	11,800	-0.8	2.5
Retail Trade	87,900	88,200	84,800	-0.3	3.7
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,600	12,600	12,200	0.0	3.3
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,400	9,700	9,200	-3.1	2.2
Food & Beverage Stores	13,500	13,400	12,800	0.7	5.5
General Merchandise Stores	19,300	19,200	18,300	0.5	5.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,500	20,700	21,100	-1.0	-2.8
Utilities	2,000	2,100	2,000	-4.8	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,500	18,600	19,100	-0.5	-3.1
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,400	9,600	9,500	-2.1	-1.1
Information	10,800	10,800	10,800	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	3,900	3,900	3,900	0.0	0.0
<i>Financial Activities</i>	33,600	33,400	32,500	0.6	3.4
Finance & Insurance	24,200	24,100	23,600	0.4	2.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,400	9,300	8,900	1.1	5.6
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	85,600	86,300	81,100	-0.8	5.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	35,700	35,400	34,000	0.8	5.0
Scientific Research & Development	7,800	7,800	7,700	0.0	1.3
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,600	7,500	7,600	1.3	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	42,300	43,400	39,500	-2.5	7.1
Administrative & Support Services	41,000	42,000	38,100	-2.4	7.6
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	74,900	75,000	72,400	-0.1	3.5
Educational Services	7,900	8,100	8,000	-2.5	-1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	67,000	66,900	64,400	0.1	4.0
Hospitals	17,600	17,500	15,400	0.6	14.3
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	62,100	61,100	59,500	1.6	4.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,200	7,700	7,800	6.5	5.1
Accommodation & Food Services	53,900	53,400	51,700	0.9	4.3
Accommodation	9,100	8,800	8,100	3.4	12.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	44,800	44,600	43,600	0.4	2.8
<i>Other Services</i>	18,800	18,900	19,000	-0.5	-1.1
Total Government	120,000	121,000	116,800	-0.8	2.7
Federal Government	12,000	12,400	12,100	-3.2	-0.8
State & Local Government	108,000	108,600	104,700	-0.6	3.2
State Government	30,200	30,800	29,800	-1.9	1.3
State Government Education	14,500	15,000	14,600	-3.3	-0.7
State Government Administration	15,700	15,800	15,200	-0.6	3.3
Local Government	77,800	77,800	74,900	0.0	3.9
Local Government Education	41,900	41,900	40,300	0.0	4.0
Local Government Administration	32,600	32,600	31,500	0.0	3.5
Local Government Tribes	3,300	3,300	3,100	0.0	6.5

*Preliminary Estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data

State Economic Indicators

	Dec 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	761,100	764,000	755,400	-0.4	0.8
Unemployment	23,000	20,800	24,300	10.6	-5.3
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.7	3.2		
Total Employment	738,100	743,200	731,100	-0.7	1.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	758,000	762,100	754,300	-0.5	0.5
Unemployment	22,800	19,300	24,100	18.1	-5.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.5	3.2		
Total Employment	735,200	742,800	730,200	-1.0	0.7
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.0	4.7	4.5		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	205.8	205.9	197.2	-0.1	4.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	210.0	210.2	201.8	-0.1	4.1
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	37,880	41,250	36,660	-8.2	3.3
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	27,780	31,150	26,560	-10.8	4.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	15,940	13,383	13,423	19.1	18.8
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	90,781	48,944	59,766	85.5	51.9
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	57,766	31,573	46,668	83.0	23.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$14,765,224	\$9,544,613	\$11,112,748	54.7	32.9
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$255.60	\$302.30	\$238.12	-15.4	7.3
Covered Employers	51,212	51,398	49,463	-0.4	3.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$123,547,398	\$122,532,520	\$104,001,442	0.8	18.8

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities

Panhandle Data — December 2007

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,190	70,780	69,690	2.0	3.6
Unemployed	2,550	2,290	2,660	11.4	-4.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.2	3.8		
Total Employment	69,640	68,490	67,030	1.7	3.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,730	71,030	69,960	1.0	2.5
Unemployed	2,470	1,980	2,880	24.7	-14.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	2.8	4.1		
Total Employment	69,260	69,050	67,080	0.3	3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	57,810	58,140	54,880	-0.6	5.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,300	11,500	10,880	-1.7	3.9
Natural Resources & Mining	630	630	490	0.0	28.6
Construction	5,960	6,150	5,550	-3.1	7.4
Manufacturing	4,710	4,720	4,840	-0.2	-2.7
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	880	890	1,000	-1.1	-12.0
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	3,830	3,830	3,840	0.0	-0.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	46,510	46,640	44,000	-0.3	5.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,370	11,390	11,000	-0.2	3.4
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,580	1,570	1,500	0.6	5.3
<i>Retail Trade</i>	8,630	8,640	8,370	-0.1	3.1
<i>Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	1,160	1,180	1,130	-1.7	2.7
Information	910	910	970	0.0	-6.2
Financial Activities	3,140	3,160	3,060	-0.6	2.6
Professional & Business Services	6,740	6,710	5,760	0.4	17.0
Educational & Health Services	5,690	5,660	5,470	0.5	4.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7,280	7,470	6,690	-2.5	8.8
Other Services	1,590	1,550	1,460	2.6	8.9
Government Education	3,730	3,720	3,720	0.3	0.3
Government Administration	5,140	5,150	5,130	-0.2	0.2
Government Tribes	920	920	740	0.0	24.3

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

North Central Idaho Data — December 2007

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Wash.

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,330	30,080	29,060	0.8	4.4
Unemployment	1,200	1,130	1,130	6.2	6.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.8	3.9		
Total Employment	29,130	28,950	27,930	0.6	4.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,050	29,880	29,290	0.6	2.6
Unemployment	1,130	980	1,170	15.3	-3.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.3	4.0		
Total Employment	28,920	28,900	28,120	0.1	2.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	27,440	27,610	27,090	-0.6	1.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	180	230	210	-21.7	-14.3
Construction	1,430	1,500	1,250	-4.7	14.4
Manufacturing	2,950	2,970	3,100	-0.7	-4.8
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	520	520	550	0.0	-5.5
<i>Paper Manufacturing</i>	1,120	1,130	1,090	-0.9	2.8
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,310	1,320	1,460	-0.8	-10.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,570	5,570	5,610	0.0	-0.7
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	690	680	650	1.5	6.2
<i>Retail Trade</i>	3,650	3,660	3,720	-0.3	-1.9
<i>Utilities</i>	80	80	90	0.0	-11.1
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	1,150	1,150	1,150	0.0	0.0
Information	410	410	440	0.0	-6.8
Financial Activities	2,050	2,070	2,120	-1.0	-3.3
Professional & Business Services	1,540	1,610	1,550	-4.3	-0.6
Education & Health Services	4,640	4,580	4,310	1.3	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	2,500	2,500	2,460	0.0	1.6
Other Services	1,190	1,180	1,130	0.8	5.3
Government Education	2,340	2,370	2,240	-1.3	4.5
Government Administration	1,960	1,940	1,990	1.0	-1.5
Government Tribes	680	680	680	0.1	0.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southwestern Idaho Data – December 2007

Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment – Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	306,200	307,900	299,200	-0.6	2.3
Unemployment	8,300	8,000	8,300	3.8	0.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.6	2.8		
Total Employment	297,900	299,900	290,900	-0.7	2.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	301,700	304,100	300,200	-0.8	0.5
Unemployment	8,900	8,000	8,000	11.3	11.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.6	2.7		
Total Employment	292,800	296,100	292,200	-1.1	0.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	280,800	282,400	272,800	-0.6	2.9
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	55,200	56,400	55,800	-2.1	-1.1
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	24,700	25,600	24,100	-3.5	2.5
Construction	24,400	25,200	23,800	-3.2	2.5
<i>Manufacturing</i>	30,500	30,800	31,700	-1.0	-3.8
Durable Goods	24,700	24,900	25,700	-0.8	-3.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,300	2,400	2,500	-4.2	-8.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,300	0.0	-7.7
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,100	14,000	15,200	0.7	-7.2
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,200	2,300	2,300	-4.3	-4.3
Other Durable Goods	3,300	3,400	2,700	-2.9	22.2
Nondurable Goods	5,800	5,900	6,000	-1.7	-3.3
Food Manufacturing	4,200	4,300	4,100	-2.3	2.4
Printing & Related Support Activities	800	800	700	0.0	14.3
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	1,200	0.0	-33.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	225,600	226,000	217,000	-0.2	4.0
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	56,800	57,100	54,600	-0.5	4.0
Trade	49,200	49,400	46,800	-0.4	5.1
Wholesale Trade	12,700	12,700	12,200	0.0	4.1
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,900	6,900	6,900	0.0	0.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,800	3,800	3,700	0.0	2.7
Retail Trade	36,500	36,700	34,600	-0.5	5.5
Food & Beverage Stores	5,000	4,900	4,600	2.0	8.7
General Merchandise Stores	7,700	7,800	7,600	-1.3	1.3
All Other Retail Trade	23,800	24,000	22,400	-0.8	6.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,600	7,700	7,800	-1.3	-2.6
Utilities	700	600	600	16.7	16.7
Transportation & Warehousing	6,900	7,100	7,200	-2.8	-4.2
<i>Information</i>	4,700	4,700	4,700	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	100	1,400	1,400	-92.9	-92.9
<i>Financial Activities</i>	15,200	15,100	14,200	0.7	7.0
Finance & Insurance	10,700	10,700	9,900	0.0	8.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,500	4,400	4,300	2.3	4.7
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	40,400	40,900	39,400	-1.2	2.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	12,200	12,100	12,300	0.8	-0.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,700	5,600	5,700	1.8	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	22,500	23,200	21,400	-3.0	5.1
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	34,600	34,200	32,600	1.2	6.1
Educational Services	2,900	2,800	2,600	3.6	11.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,700	31,400	30,000	1.0	5.7
Hospitals	10,700	10,500	9,600	1.9	11.5
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	23,200	23,200	23,700	0.0	-2.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,000	2,000	3,000	0.0	-33.3
Accommodation & Food Services	21,200	21,200	20,700	0.0	2.4
Accommodation	2,100	2,200	1,900	-4.5	10.5
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,100	19,000	18,800	0.5	1.6
<i>Other Services</i>	8,200	8,000	6,800	2.5	20.6
<i>Total Government</i>	42,500	42,800	41,000	-0.7	3.7
Federal Government	5,800	5,800	5,500	0.0	5.5
State & Local Government	36,700	37,000	35,500	-0.8	3.4
State Government	12,200	12,400	13,600	-1.6	-10.3
State Government Education	3,800	3,800	4,800	0.0	-20.8
State Government Administration	8,400	8,600	8,800	-2.3	-4.5
Local Government	24,500	24,600	21,900	-0.4	11.9
Local Government Education	15,900	16,000	13,600	-0.6	16.9
Local Government Administration	8,600	8,600	8,300	0.0	3.6

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

South Central Idaho Data — December 2007

Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment — Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,210	48,570	48,800	1.3	0.8
Unemployment	1,160	1,080	1,470	7.4	-21.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.2	3.0		
Total Employment	48,050	47,490	47,330	1.2	1.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,160	49,370	49,040	-0.4	0.2
Unemployment	1,190	1,000	1,450	19.0	-17.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4	2.0	3.0		
Total Employment	47,970	48,370	47,590	-0.8	0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	41,120	41,450	39,740	-0.8	3.5
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,780	7,680	6,940	1.3	12.1
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,500	2,530	2,320	-1.2	7.8
Manufacturing	5,250	5,120	4,590	2.5	14.4
Food Manufacturing	3,040	2,880	2,480	5.6	22.6
Other Manufacturing	2,210	2,240	2,110	-1.3	4.7
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	33,340	33,770	32,800	-1.3	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,720	11,030	10,340	-2.8	3.7
Wholesale Trade	2,000	1,980	1,900	1.0	5.3
Retail Trade	6,180	6,470	6,100	-4.5	1.3
Utilities	140	140	150	0.0	-6.7
Transportation & Warehousing	2,400	2,440	2,190	-1.6	9.6
Information	660	660	640	0.0	3.1
Financial Activities	1,700	1,620	1,750	4.9	-2.9
Professional & Business Services	4,720	4,850	4,950	-2.7	-4.6
Educational & Health Services	5,370	5,410	5,140	-0.7	4.5
Leisure & Hospitality	3,050	3,060	2,950	-0.3	3.4
Other Services	1,340	1,450	1,420	-7.6	-5.6
Government Education	3,410	3,410	3,310	0.0	3.0
Government Administration	2,370	2,280	2,300	3.9	3.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeastern Idaho Data — December 2007

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,330	44,350	45,250	0.0	-2.0
Unemployment	1,240	1,190	1,550	4.2	-20.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.7	3.4		
Total Employment	43,090	43,160	43,700	-0.2	-1.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,380	43,690	45,140	1.6	-1.7
Unemployment	1,240	1,100	1,550	12.7	-20.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.5	3.4		
Total Employment	43,140	42,590	43,590	1.3	-1.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	39,690	39,880	39,820	-0.5	-0.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,580	5,710	5,770	-2.3	-3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	1,910	2,010	2,050	-5.0	-6.8
Manufacturing	3,640	3,670	3,700	-0.8	-1.6
Food Manufacturing	1,360	1,340	1,290	1.5	5.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	180	180	170	0.0	5.9
Machinery Manufacturing	350	360	260	-2.8	34.6
Other Manufacturing	1,750	1,800	1,890	-2.8	-7.4
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	34,110	34,170	34,050	-0.2	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,490	7,570	7,610	-1.1	-1.6
Wholesale Trade	1,360	1,370	1,360	-0.7	0.0
Retail Trade	4,790	4,820	4,740	-0.6	1.1
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,290	1,330	1,460	-3.0	-11.6
Information	710	690	780	2.9	-9.0
Financial Activities	2,280	2,290	2,160	-0.4	5.6
Professional & Business Services	5,580	5,610	5,520	-0.5	1.1
Educational & Health Services	3,520	3,500	3,250	0.6	8.3
Leisure & Hospitality	3,610	3,610	3,430	0.0	5.2
Other Services	1,190	1,160	1,140	2.6	4.4
Government Education	6,030	6,140	5,880	-1.8	2.6
Government Administration	3,700	3,600	4,280	2.8	-13.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

East Central Idaho Data — December 2007

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Dec 2007*	Nov 2007	Dec 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,750	59,900	57,040	-1.9	3.0
Unemployment	1,250	1,040	1,430	20.2	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.1%	1.7%	2.5%		
Total Employment	57,500	58,860	55,610	-2.3	3.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,920	59,260	57,050	-0.6	3.3
Unemployment	1,280	1,070	1,360	19.6	-5.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.2%	1.8%	2.4%		
Total Employment	57,640	58,190	55,690	-0.9	3.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,220	52,530	54,740	-0.6	-4.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,970	8,370	7,900	-4.8	0.9
Construction & Natural Resources	4,540	4,920	4,410	-7.7	2.9
Manufacturing	3,430	3,450	3,490	-0.6	-1.7
Food Manufacturing	1,080	1,070	1,100	0.9	-1.8
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	280	290	250	-3.4	12.0
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	160	0.0	-6.3
Other Manufacturing	1,920	1,940	1,980	-1.0	-3.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,250	44,160	46,840	0.2	-5.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	14,190	13,960	13,800	1.6	2.8
Wholesale Trade	4,000	3,970	4,050	0.8	-1.2
Retail Trade	8,350	8,130	7,970	2.7	4.8
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,780	1,800	1,720	-1.1	3.5
Information	1,230	1,230	1,250	0.0	-1.6
Financial Activities	2,290	2,300	2,250	-0.4	1.8
Professional & Business Services	5,450	5,610	9,110	-2.9	-40.2
Educational & Health Services	7,480	7,410	7,020	0.9	6.6
Leisure & Hospitality	4,360	4,360	4,500	0.0	-3.1
Other Services	1,950	1,920	1,950	1.6	0.0
Government Education	3,680	3,720	3,580	-1.1	2.8
Government Administration	3,620	3,650	3,380	-0.8	7.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.